

Message Text

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TAGS: OREP (CODEL HOLLINGS/GRIFFIN: PFOR

SUBJ: CODEL HOLLINGS/GRIFFIN PRESS COMMENT ON INDIAN OCEAN

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE AGE, JANUARY 8.

2. QTE US WANTS US TO BE GO-BETWEEN
FROM RUSSELL SKELTON

A LEADING UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN, SENATOR JOHN CULVER, HAS
ASKED AUSTRALIA TO PLAY A INNER QTE GO-BETWEEN END INNER QTE
ROLE WITH THE SOVIET UNION TO TRY TO CURB A SUPER-POWER
BUILD UP IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

3. QTE THE SENATOR MADE THE REQUEST YESTERDAY AT TALKS WITH
THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. FRASER, AND THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, MR. PEACOCK.

4. SENATOR CULVER ASKED MR. FRASER TO CONSIDER PLAYING A
PART IN EXPLAINING TO THE LITTORAL STATES THAT THE UNITED
STATES WAS ANXIOUS TO AVOID A NAVAL BUILD-UP IN THE OCEAN.

5. QTE THE LITTORAL STATES INCLUDE INDIA, SRI LANKA, IRAN,
MOZAMBIQUE AND A NUMBER OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

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YM QTE SENATOR CULVER HELPED TO DELAY U.S. EXPANSION OF THE

DIEGO GARCIA ISLAND BASE AND URGED THE FORD ADMINISTRATION TO EXPLORE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

7. QTE HE IS A LEADING MEMBER OF THE POWERFUL ARMED SERVICES AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

8. QTE HIS REQUEST YESTERDAY HAS EMBARRASSED THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS MADE NO DETAILED POLICY DECISIONS ABOUT THE INDIAN OCEAN, EXCEPT THAT ANY SOVIET BUILD-UP SHOULD BE COUNTERED.

9. QTE MR. FRASER MAY NOW HAVE TO FOLLOW THE LINE THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER, MR. WHITLAM, TOOK IN MOSCOW IN 1973, WHEN HE PRESSED SOVIET LEADERS TO TALK WITH THE U.S. ABOUT THE OCEAN BUILD-UP.

10. QTE SENATOR CULVER SAID YESTERDAY: INNER QTE WE ARE APPRECIATIVE OF ANY EFFORTS BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO PERSUADE THE SOVIET UNION TO THE WISDOM OF ATTEMPTING TO PUT A CAP ON THE PROSPECTS OF ESCALATION OF A SUPER-POWER PRESENCE AND ACTIVITY. END INNER QTE.

11. QTE HE SAID CONGRESS WANTED TO DELAY EXPANDING DIEGO GARCIA SO THE U.S. COULD TRY TO AGREE WITH THE SOVIET UNION TO EXERCISE NAVAL RESTRAINT IN THE REGION.

12. QTE IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF AUSTRALIA ASKED THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO INNER QTE RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THIS AMERICAN INITIATIVE. END INNER QTE.

13. QTE THE UNITED STATES WOULD APPRECIATE ATTEMPTS BY AUSTRALIA TO CONVINCE THE LITTORAL STATES OF THE AMERICANS' GOOD FAITH.

14. QTE INNER QTE CONGRESS HAS DIRECTED THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO INITIATE FORMAL OVERTURES TO THE SOVIET UNION IN THE HOPE THAT WE CAN BRING ABOUT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT END INNER QTE HE SAID.

15. QTE SENATOR CULVER IS ONE OF FOUR CONGRESSMEN VISITING UNCLASSIFIED

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AUSTRALIA AND SOUTH PACIFIC.

16. QTE THE OTHERS ARE SENATOR ERNEST HOLLINGS, SENATOR ROBERT GRIFFEN AND SENATOR HOWARD BAKER, WHO WAS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE HISTORIC WATERGATE COMMITTEE. END QTE. PERCIVAL

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